COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Standing NATO Naval Force Gets Approval in Principle

A proposal to create a standing NATO Naval Force was approved in principle at a meeting of the NATO Military Committee in Paris last month.

Adm. Thomas H. Moorer made public announcement of the approval in Norfolk, Va., June 17, at change of command ceremonies in which he was relieved as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic by Adm. Ephraim P. Holmes, USN. Adm. Moorer has been nominated to become Chief of Naval Operations.

The Standing NATO Naval Force will represent the world's first permanent multi-national naval force. A multi-national training and exercise force, the Match Maker Squadron, has been activated on a temporary, six-month basis each year for three years.

A NATO command spokesman said the initial force will be composed of destroyer-type ships, although larger ships such as aircraft carriers and cruisers would join it occasionally for exercises and training.

Ships of the new force will be volunteered and nationally manned by the various NATO navies. However, the Standing Naval Force Staff will be internationally manned with representation from each participating country. Command of the force will rotate by nationality each year.

Adm. Moorer, who initiated the proposal for the Standing Naval Force, said it "will provide NATO with a valuable and flexible military tool which can be used with important political and military effect in behalf of the Alliance."

Army Modifies Policy on Enlistment, Reenlistment for ARADCOM Duty

Department of Army has announced a modification to Section XI, AR 601-210, which deals with "Enlistment and Reenlistment for United States Army Air Defense Command Guided Missile Units." The modification is as follows:

Those personnel enlisting/reenlisting for USARADCOM will receive training in one of the following MOS: 16B—Hercules Missile Crewman, 16C—Hercules Missile Fire Control Crewman, 16D—Hawk Missile Crewman, 16E—Hawk Missile Fire Control Crewman, 16H—Air Defense Artillery Operations and Intelligence Assistant, 17H—Fire Distribution Systems Crewman.

ORIENTATION VISIT—Dr. John S. Foster (left), Director, Department of Defense Research and Engineering, is welcomed aboard the attack carrier USS Bon Homme Richard, operating in the Gulf of Tonkin, by RAdm. V. P. de Poix (center), Commander Carrier Division 7, and RAdm. R. W. Mehle, Commander Task Force 77. Dr. Foster headed a group of DOD research and engineering experts who boarded the carrier for orientation and briefings with Navy officials.

DOD Estimate of ABM Need Unchanged By Red Chinese Nuclear Explosion

Communist China's nuclear explosion in mid-June has not changed the Pentagon's estimate concerning the need to deploy a light Anti-Ballistic-Missile defense against a Red Chinese nuclear threat during the 1970's, Defense officials said June 22.

They pointed out Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara had outlined the entire problem to Congress in his Jan. 23, 1967 "Posture Statement" and said this position still holds.

Mr. McNamara said then that it was not clear if we required ABM defenses against China, but if we did, the lead time for deployment of a significant Chinese offensive force is longer than that required for American ABM deployment.

He concluded the deployment decision did not have to be made now.

The Defense Secretary did say, however, an austere ABM defense costing $3.5 billion might be a good investment in terms of both protection and money.

Describing the $3.5 billion, including the cost of warheads, as a modest outlay, Mr. McNamara said, "this austere defense could probably preclude damage in the 1970's almost entirely."

Washington Memos

THREE CIVILIAN SECRETARIES of the Military Departments filed negative reports in mid-June to Defense Secretary McNamara concerning hazing or unbecoming conduct in military initiation ceremonies. Mr. McNamara ordered the survey in early June. Service secretaries said such ceremonies as Army's helicopter pilot graduation and the Navy's crossing-the-equator initiation may continue but stressed unbecoming conduct is prohibited.

EVACUATION OF WHEELUS AB has been completed, with more than 5,000 Americans airlifted to Europe as a safety measure during the Israeli-Arab fighting. "Operation Safe Haven" also included flying some 1,600 Air Force wives and dependent children to USA. Nearly all USAF dependents living off base have been evacuated, but Col. Joseph D. White at Wheelus AB said that "relations with the government of Libya and the Royal Libyan Air Force are excellent."

NUCLEAR-POWERED ATTACK Submarine Grayling was launched June 22 at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, N. H. A Sturgeon class submarine, Grayling is 291 feet long and has a 31-foot beam. She will be manned by 10 officers and 85 enlisted men. Armament will consist of four 21-inch torpedo tubes and submarine rockets. Commissioning is scheduled for June 1968.

AIR FORCE AIR DEFENSE Command has named 632nd Radar Squadron, Roanoke Rapids Air Force Station, N.C., as winner of annual Radar-Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron Maintenance Achievement Award for 1966. 689th Radar Squadron, Mt. Hebo AFS, Ore., was runner-up, while 787th Radar Squadron, Chandler AFS, Minn., took third. More than 112 squadrons competed.

LARGEST MILITARY JET ENGINE has passed its first test at Edwards AFB, California. Built by General Electric Co., TF-39 engine, in 40,000-pound thrust class, will be power plant for Air Force's C-5A Galaxy, due for its first flight in 1968. Engine was flown for an hour and 45 minutes, mounted under the wing of a Boeing B-52 Stratofortress. Officials say TF-39 produces same thrust as four B-52 engines.

RVN-ORIENTED TRAINING, designed to give Army trainees lessons in counter-insurgency and Vietnamese environment, has been added to Advanced Individual Training curriculum at fourth Infantry training center in U.S. Latest training center to receive new addition to curriculum is Ft. McClellan, Ala.

PUERTO RICO Air National Guard received its first supersonic aircraft in June. Tactical Air Command's 156th Tactical Fighter Group, a unit of Puerto Rico Air National Guard, received first of squadron strength deployment of 1,400 mph "C" and "D" models of Lockheed F-104 Starfighter. Group is currently flying 650 mph North American F-86H Saberjet.

ARMY AVIATION MATERIEL Command has awarded a $3.7 million contract to Sikorsky Aircraft Division, United Aircraft Corp., Stratford, Conn., for production and delivery of 32 helicopter rotor blade mechanisms required in support of CH-54A Flying Crane program. A second contract of $4.99 million was awarded to Bell Helicopter Co., for upward modification of existing contract for production and delivery of 63 additional Army UH-ID Iroquois helicopters.

ALMOST 10,000 WIVES are participating in Air Force's Family Service programs around world. Semi-annual USAF report set total at 216 centers at home and overseas and said volunteer wives of airmen and officers handled 2,207 emergency cases during period. Activities included loans of household items, housing assistance, orientation courses and citizen training for foreign-born brides.

SSGT EARLE H. ROSS, flight simulator technician with 437th Military Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, S.C., is first noncommissioned officer of his grade to win Commandant's Award at MAC NCO Academy, Orlando AFB, Florida. Award, one of two presented to outstanding students, honors man showing greatest improvement during five-week leadership school. Established in 1955, school admitted first staff sergeants this year.

FISCAL YEAR 1968 convening dates for staff noncommissioned officer selection boards have been announced by Headquarters Marine Corps. Selection board for sergeant major, master gunnery sergeant, first sergeant and master sergeant meets July 21. Board for gunnery sergeant is scheduled to meet Sept. 6, and board for staff sergeant will meet Oct. 25.

FIRST SQUADRON of "D" model F-4 Phantom II jet fighters has deployed to Southeast Asia. Tactical Air Command's 40th Tactical Fighter Squadron has been transferred from Eglin AFB, Fla., to Ubon Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand. Aircraft are latest in F-4 Phantom series.

CAPT. TOMMY D. GREGORY, USMC, has assumed assignment as Human Relations Officer at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Capt. Gregory will function as special advisor to Commanding General in all matters concerning minority group personnel. His primary responsibility is to investigate and resolve complaints of discrimination against military personnel residing in local communities. Post is first of its kind in Marine Corps.

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THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS OFFICIAL INFORMATION, NEWS AND POLICY, DIRECT FROM WASHINGTON AUTHORIZED SOURCES.

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Background for Commanders

PRESIDENT STATES MIDDLE EAST POLICY*

Now, finally, let me turn to the Middle East—and to the tumultuous events of the past months.

Those events have proved the wisdom of five great principles of peace in the region.

• The first and greatest principle is that every nation in the area has a fundamental right to live, and to have this right respected by its neighbors.

For the people of the Middle East, the path to hope does not lie in threats to end the life of any nation. Such threats have become a burden to the peace, not only of that region but a burden to the peace of the entire world.

In the same way, no nation would be true to the United Nations Charter, or to its own true interests, if it should permit military success to blind it to the fact that its neighbors have rights and its neighbors have interests of their own. Each nation, therefore, must accept the right of others to live.

• This last month, I think, shows us another basic requirement for settlement. It is a human requirement: Justice for the refugees.

A new conflict has brought new homelessness. The nations of the Middle East must at last address themselves to the plight of those who have been displaced by wars.

• A third lesson from this last month is that maritime rights must be respected.

Our nation has long been committed to free maritime passage through international waterways, and we, along with other nations, were taking the necessary steps to implement this principle when hostilities exploded. If a single act of folly was more responsible for this explosion than any other, I think it was the arbitrary and dangerous announced decision that the Straits of Tiran would be closed. The right of innocent maritime passage must be preserved for all nations.

• Fourth, this last conflict has demonstrated the danger of the Middle Eastern arms race of the last 12 years.

Here the responsibility must rest not only on those in the area— but upon the larger states outside the area. We believe that scarce resources could be used much better for technical and economic development. We have always opposed this arms race, and our own military shipments to the area have consequently been severely limited.

As a beginning, I should like to propose that the United Nations immediately call upon all of its members to report all shipments of all military arms into this area, and to keep those shipments on file for all the peoples of the world to observe.

• Fifth, the crisis underlines the importance of respect for political independence and territorial integrity of all the states of the area.

This principle can be effective in the Middle East only on the basis of peace between the parties. What they now need are recognized boundaries and other arrangements that will give them security against terror, destruction and war. Further, there just must be adequate recognition of the special interest of three great religions in the holy places of Jerusalem.

These five principles are not new, but we do think they are fundamental.

No "Simple Solution"

There are some who have urged, as a single, simple solution, an immediate return to the situation as it was on June 4. As our distinguished and able Ambassador, Mr. Arthur Goldberg, has already said, this is not a prescription for peace, but for renewed hostilities.

Certainly troops must be withdrawn, but there must also be recognized rights of national life—progress in solving the refugee problem — freedom of innocent maritime passage—limitation of the arms race—and respect for political independence and territorial integrity.

Clearly the parties to the conflict must be the parties to the peace.

But we must still ask, who can help them? Some say it should be the United Nations; some call for the use of other parties. We have been first in our support of effective peace-keeping in the United Nations, and we also recognize the great values to come from mediation. We are ready this morning to see any method tried, and we believe that none should be excluded altogether.

Yet there is no escape from this fact: The main responsibility for the peace of the region depends upon its own peoples and its own leaders of that region.

The world this morning is watching, watching for the peace of the world, because that is really what is at stake.

If the nations of the Middle East will turn toward the works of peace, they can count with confidence upon the friendship, and the help, of all the people of the United States of America.

In a climate of peace, we here will do our full share to help with a solution for the refugees. We here will do our full share in support of regional cooperation. We here will do our share, and do more, to see that the peaceful promise of nuclear energy is applied to the critical problem of desalting water and helping to make the deserts bloom.

This is not a time for malice, but for magnanimity; not for propaganda, but for patience: not for vituperation, but for vision.

** Excerpts from an address by President Johnson given on June 19, 1967, in Washington, D.C.*

Army Announces Changes In Intelligence Branch

Army's Intelligence and Security Branch will be renamed Military Intelligence July 1 and will serve in a new combat support role with emphasis on cross-training all officers in the branch.

The changes, approved by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Harold K. Johnson, stemmed from recommendations by a committee appointed to study every facet of U.S. Army Intelligence. The committee was headed by Maj. Gen. Frank W. Norris, Director of Military Personnel Policy for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

The branch has been redesignated from combat service support to combat support status.

Under the change, intelligence officers will be trained for a career pattern crossing all positions of tactical and strategic intelligence. Purpose of the cross training is to create greater assignment flexibility, schooling and promotion potential for officers.

AF Seeks WAF Volunteers For Thailand Assignment

Women of the Air Force (WAF) may now volunteer for overseas duty in Bangkok, Thailand, according to a recent Department of the Air Force message. There are, however, only 13 authorized positions and three have already been filled.

All positions are in the administration field and call for an 18 month tour. Positions are open in grades Airman First Class and above. Requests for volunteers to fill the existing vacancies have gone to all major commands in the United States. WAF now serving overseas will not be considered.

Those who previously submitted volunteer statements for assignments in Vietnam are urged to consider the Bangkok openings in the interest of early selections.

CHANGE OF COMMAND—Army Maj. Gen. Charles W. Eifler (left) turns over the 60,000 man 1st Logistical Command to Brig. Gen. Shelton E. Lollis (right) in ceremonies at the command's Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam, headquarters. Lt. Gen. Bruce Palmer Jr. (center), U.S. Army Vietnam Deputy CG, was among the many ranking officials at the ceremony. Gen. Eifler has been reassigned as CG, Army Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Gen. Lollis has been Deputy CG of the 1st Log Command for 13 months.

Air Guard Launches 1000th Vietnam Mission

A four-engine C-124 of the 172nd Military Airlift Group, Mississippi Air National Guard, Jackson, Miss., roared down the runway June 23, to become the 1,000th mission to Vietnam for the Air National Guard.

Since December 1965, the Guard has been flying an average of more than 200 overseas missions a month supporting the Military Airlift Command (MAC). Guard missions have gone to every corner of the earth during this period, and, of these more than 4,000 global missions, about 1,300 have been flown in support of Southeast Asia.

The 1,000th Vietnam mission lifted off from Jackson's Allen Thompson Field with stops at Kelly AFB, Tex.; Travis AFB, Calif.; Hawaii; Kwajalein; Guam and the Philippines. While this mission was directly into Vietnam, others have gone to other locations in the area such as Thailand, Guam and the Philippines.

On Southeast Asia missions, Air Guardsmen have flown more than 88,000 hours and nearly 100 million accident free hours. They have taken more than 21,000 tons of cargo and 20,500 passengers on the flights.

Marine Commandant Okays Changes in Uniform Regs

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr. has approved changes and revisions of Marine Corps uniform regulations recommended by the Permanent Uniform Board at its May session.

The board unanimously recommended that staff noncommissioned officers be permitted to purchase approved officer black dress shoes for wear other than in formation. However, monk strap shoes and chukka boots are still restricted to officer wear.

Also approved was a recommendation that Marine captains no longer be required to purchase evening/mess dress uniforms unless needed for specific duty.

Gen. Greene approved a recommendation that would allow all Marines to wear overshoes or rubbers during inclement weather. It was decided, however, the overshoes and rubbers must be plain black, and the overshoes must have a zipper closure.

Approval was given to extend the obsolescence date for the Women Marines' green utilities from July 1, 1970, until July 1, 1971.

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